

PET SAFETY AND PROTECTION
ACT

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I introduced legislation to put an end to an industry that's taken cruelty to animals to a whole new level.

Animal dealers who operate under a USDA Class B license have been guilty of gross violations of the Animal Welfare Act's minimum standards for the decent treatment of animals.

Class B dealers have routinely kept dogs in overcrowded cages, fed them rotten food and food contaminated with feces, ignored problems like frozen drinking water, failed to provide veterinary care for dogs with serious untreated injuries and diseases, and left live dogs caged up with the carcasses of dead dogs. And if that's not enough to turn your stomach, Class B dealers have beaten, strangled, and shot dogs.

Now, all that would be bad enough, but this story gets even worse. There are two kinds of dealers who sell dogs to research facilities. Class A dealers raise the dogs they sell to researchers, and they are strictly regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Class B dealers, on the other hand, acquire the dogs they sell from so-called random sources. What this means is that Class B dealers buy animals, often with no questions asked, from an unregulated network of suppliers.

Thanks to the work of animal rights groups and undercover investigators, we know that Class B dealers buy dogs that were family pets: pets that have in many cases been stolen or adopted under false pretenses. Class B dealers often acquire lost pets from local pounds or shelters and it's clear that they do it knowingly.

Like millions of Americans, I've got a dog I love. He's a golden retriever named Brody. I get sick to my stomach when I think about someone treating him the way Class B dealers treat the dogs they buy and sell.

The Animal Welfare Act has been in place for fifty years, but Class B dealers are still getting away with murder. The Class B trade in animals creates strong financial incentives for theft, inhumane treatment of animals, and other crime, as the record of this industry over the years has proven. It's time to shut this barbaric system down.

With that end in mind, Congressman CHRIS SMITH and I have introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives that we believe would ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally. This legislation, the Pet Safety and Protection Act, would effectively prohibit the use of animals purchased from Class B dealers by scientific and biomedical research institutions.

Specifically, the Pet Safety and Protection Act would require research facilities to obtain dogs and cats from only five sources: Class A dealers, law-abiding publicly owned and operated pounds or shelters, properly licensed research facilities, federal research facilities, or people who have owned the dogs or cats in question for at least a year and who are donating these animals for research.

This legislation would effectively ensure that lost or stolen pets would no longer be slipped into the supply chain for research animals.

Ending the trade in random source dogs won't halt or harm much-needed research. Most researchers have stopped using animals from Class B dealers, and researchers will still be able to procure purpose-bred research animals from a number of more reliable, more humane, and more reputable sources. But, it will ensure that somebody's beloved pet doesn't end up in a Class B dealer's hands.

The Animal Welfare Institute and the Humane Society strongly support this legislation. In fact, the Animal Welfare Institute and the Humane Society have been actively engaged in trying to end this abuse for years, and they know more about this problem than anyone else. I'm grateful to them for their efforts to raise public awareness about this problem, and to enact legislation to end it.

Class B dealers across this country violate the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act every day and cause needless suffering for thousands of dogs and cats, many of which were once beloved family pets. Class B dealers starve, beat, and kill these animals, and they deserve to be shut down.

I urge my colleagues to join me in enacting the Pet Safety and Protection Act so we can put an end to this unnecessary and abhorrent practice.

A TRIBUTE TO DYLAN MULLENIX

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dylan Mullenix for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Dylan serves as the Assistant Director for the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. With his leadership, the organization has developed The Tomorrow Plan, a long-range plan for the sustainable development of the Greater Des Moines area. In addition, Dylan was instrumental in the creation of the Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Plan. He also serves on other local regional planning organizations. Outside of work, Dylan enjoys following University of Iowa athletics and spending time with his wife, Erin, and son, Jack.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Dylan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Dylan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Busi-

ness Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

LATIN AMERICAN ARTICLES

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues several articles that I have written over the years regarding Latin America. As a Member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs, these pieces serve to outline and inform discussions that our Committee will cover in the 115th Congress. I include in the RECORD the attached articles.

WHAT REAL PROGRESS ON CUBA SHOULD LOOK LIKE

(By Mel Martinez & Francis Rooney)

When President Obama stepped off Air Force One in Havana, many focused on the historic nature of his visit to Cuba—the first since President Calvin Coolidge. Coverage is focused on a thaw in Cold War animosity, and images of President Obama strolling the Malecón and meeting with Raúl Castro are being broadcast around the world. However, behind those scenes, the Cuban people continue to suffer under a regime that denies them the rights, the freedom, the opportunity, and the dignity they deserve. Without addressing human rights, economic freedom, and freedom of expression, President Obama's trip is likely to be nothing more than speeches and photo ops.

First, President Obama should make it clear that further opening of ties between the U.S. and Cuba is contingent upon further political, economic, and social reforms. These preconditions would make it clear to the Cuban regime that despite the restoration of diplomatic ties, the benefits they seek from trade, investment, and tourism from the United States are destined to benefit the Cuban people—not to buttress a repressive regime.

In Havana, we hope that President Obama reminds the Cuban regime of how far it lags behind its neighbors in the region who have embraced democracy, economic freedom, and the rule of law. Compared to the region, Cuba has remained an economic and political backwater. It must be made clear to the Cuban regime that their restrictions on political freedom, civil rights, free expression, and the rule of law are on the wrong side of history.

To this end, President Obama should push the Cuban regime to begin significant shifts to ensure the rule of law and initial steps towards the creation of an independent judiciary free of Communist Party influence. Protections of human rights, property, and dignity must come before the interests of the Cuban Communist Party. Furthermore, with party poised to hold its Seventh Congress next month, President Obama should suggest that further rapprochement requires that Congress to chart a path towards free and fair elections, and not to serve as a rubber stamp for the next generation of Communist apparatchiks.

More importantly, it must be made clear to the Cuban regime that the United States will not tolerate the continuing brutal detention of human rights activists and regime opposition. In the lead up to President Obama's visit, 300 people have been arrested

since March 8th. Dozens of the Damas de Blanco were arrested before Obama's arrival over the weekend. Their "crime" is to demand the freedoms and rights that are not just U.S. interests, but rather fundamental American values. If the harassment and persecution of these reformers continues, President Obama should let the Cuban regime know that this rapprochement will be at least frozen, if not significantly rolled back.

On the economic front, the U.S. private sector cannot be the successor to the Soviet Union and Chavez's Venezuela in propping up the Cuban regime. The Helms-Burton Act will continue to remain the law of the land, and President Obama should remind the Cuban regime that Congress is unlikely to change that without a significant relaxation of the political and economic fetters the Cuban regime places on its people.

Furthermore, President Obama should make it clear that it is not acceptable for the Cuban government to serve as a pass-through middleman who receives investments in dollars or euros, and pays workers in Cuban Pesos that represent a fraction of the value of worker labor. If U.S. firms do invest in Cuba, they must be allowed to pay their workers directly—in dollars.

Additionally, if further investments are made in Cuban telecommunication systems, and if data connections between the U.S. mainland and Cuba are bolstered, the U.S. government should insist that the Cuban people have access to a free, uncensored version of the Internet. Improved telecommunications need to be contingent on ensuring that Cubans can join the global digital commons and communicate freely. Furthermore, with U.S.-Cuba increased data traffic on the horizon, the Obama Administration should make it absolutely clear that Cuba cannot continue to serve as a listening post for Russian and Chinese signals intelligence and cyber espionage aimed at the United States.

While we still believe that the Cuban regime has demonstrated far too little in the way of reform or openness to warrant the steps the Obama Administration has taken in opening to Cuba, we feel that these actions would ensure that his trip to Havana can bring about real benefits for the Cuban people.

US NEEDS PLAN COLOMBIA FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

(By Mel Martinez & Francis Rooney)

One of the many positive items within the budget omnibus deal reached by Congress and approved by the president is the \$750 million for assisting the countries of Central America that have been beset by crime and instability—which has, in turn, sent vast numbers of unaccompanied minors northward to the United States to seek safety and economic opportunity.

The \$750 million allotted to help El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras will help to target the gang violence that has plagued these nations, combined with efforts to promote the rule of law, reduce corruption, and improve governance in these countries. This assistance is a positive step from the United States, but this crisis cannot be solved with American largesse alone.

Over the past year we have led a project focused on the lessons learned from the past decade of Latin American geopolitical trends, and how these trends affect the relationship between the United States and its hemispheric neighbors. One key lesson from this timeframe is how US assistance is only one part of the equation for addressing criminality and corruption. A willing partner on the ground is as important—if not more important—than the total sum of US assistance.

During the worst years of narcoviolence in Colombia, the Plan Colombia provided [check sum] to the Colombian government for countering the cartels. This assistance would also include training from US forces and high tech surveillance and precision weaponry to target cartel infrastructure and leadership. However, the money and equipment only worked to solve this crisis because they were accompanied by political and military leadership in Colombia willing to make the sacrifices in blood and treasure to defeat the cartels. Colombian leaders understood that the fight against the cartels and rebel groups would also require significant political and economic reforms at home to address structural shortfalls that made cartels and insurgencies viable.

In our overview of the region, we also looked at how Latin American nations are, themselves, emphasizing the importance of the rule of law and reforms to governance that improve not only security, but also economic performance and political freedoms. In this sense, while US assistance can provide financial and technical support, it is also incumbent upon the US to work with its other hemispheric partners to stabilize these countries.

Again, Colombia's experience and success in this area makes it a potential exporter of security expertise and assistance to the region. Reforms and economic structures implemented throughout the region, particularly among the nations of the Pacific Alliance, are also tools that can better integrate Central American economies into the regional economy. This combination of improved security and economic opportunity can starve the flames of gangs and corrupt politicians of their fuel.

Around the region, the growth of a vocal middle class has also increased the pressure on corrupt politicians as the people of Latin America have demanded more of their political class. Like other nations in the region, the assistance the Central American countries receive from the US and other regional partners should also address the need for improved civil society and the independent institutions that foster good governance and the rule of law.

Finally, in confronting the human cost of those fleeing Central America for opportunity elsewhere, we must remember that other nations in the region are our partners in addressing this challenge. The vast majority of those crossing our southern border come from these Central American countries, not Mexico. In fact Mexican nationals are now net migrants out of the United States. With the flow of migrants out of Central America, Mexico also finds itself seeking to better secure its southern borders. Solving this problem—and ensuring that young children do not fall victim to gangs of human traffickers—will require cooperation, not confrontation with Mexico.

The \$750 million appropriated to help Central America is a positive first step, but to maximize the return on this investment, it will be necessary to foster a shared regional approach to stabilizing those countries.

ARGENTINA'S FORK IN THE ROAD: CHOOSING BETWEEN COMPETING LATIN AMERICAN NARRATIVES

(By Francis Rooney and Max Angerholzer III)

When the Argentine people go to the polls in October, they will have an opportunity to reject the protectionism and populism that are the hallmarks of current President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner's government. There are certainly recent Latin American success stories that point towards a more hopeful path, to include the examples

set by more conservative governments like those in Colombia and Mexico. There are also several countries that are both geographically and ideologically closer to home for Argentina that offer valuable lessons as well: consider the Chile of President Michelle Bachelet and former President Ricardo Lagos; the Uruguay of President Tabaré Vázquez and former President Jose "Pepe" Mujica; and, notably, Peru and the transformation launched there by former President Alan García.

Regardless of which role models and regional examples are chosen, there are now two clear and divergent narratives competing for the future of Latin America. The first encompasses those nations that have embraced elements of free-markets, economic diversification and integration into global commerce, reinforcing democratic institutions. The Pacific Alliance is a good example of this hopeful trajectory.

The second narrative is one of corruption, cronyism and populism, and the nations who have chosen this path have found themselves increasingly isolated from international commerce and unable to adequately care for their own citizens. Venezuela under Hugo Chavez blazed this trail, and in many ways Argentina and Brazil followed it down a dead end. Largely as a result these countries have missed the economic and democratic revival underway throughout much of the region, and their governments are faced with growing instability resulting from gross economic mismanagement, corruption, and the erosion of democratic institutions.

In the case of Argentina, "Kirchnerism"—which combines aspects of populism, nationalism, and protectionism—guided the country's development during the late 1990s and early 2000s. This ideology shaped the social and economic institutions of Argentina, leading to the nationalization of the country's largest oil company Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales (YPF); the president's rejection of closer economic ties with the European Union; and Argentina's embrace of the protectionist trade bloc Mercosur. The populist economic policies implemented by the administration have also included freezing utility rates and attempting to combat inflation by doctoring official figures. As the Argentine economy has inevitably slowed, inflation and debt have continued to rise, further revealing the shortcomings of this dead-end ideology.

As Christina Kirchner's second term mercifully comes to an end, presidential candidates Daniel Scioli, Sergio Massa, and Mauricio Macri are looking towards a different path. For Scioli and Massa, that means distancing themselves from "Kirchnerism." Scioli has stated that he would break with populism and protectionism. Massa left Kirchner's FPV Party last year and is running as a candidate for the Renewal Front Coalition. The only non-Peronist candidate, Macri, runs on a more pro-market platform and calls for realignment with the West.

Unfortunately, whoever wins the election will have to break the government's habit of excessive social spending, and confront entrenched unions resistant to change. Likewise, potential Vice President Carlos Zanini and many governors and legislators who share the Kirchner ideology may work against free market reforms. Change will have to come gradually if sustainable, free market economics are to truly take root in Argentina.

The United States can help by reaching out to Argentina's next president, enabling him with bilateral trade agreements and resources aimed at promoting free markets, democracy and the rule of law. Efforts should also be made to more closely integrate the country into international trade

and financing institutions. U.S. think tanks that nurture democratic and free market reforms should also do their part. The next Argentinian president will need all the help we can muster in weaning the country off of the Kirchner brand of cronyism and statism.

The United States has similarly offered assistance to Colombia and Panama as they implemented comprehensive economic, legal and security reforms. Greater security and stronger democratic institutions in those countries have led to increased foreign investment, making their economies more globally competitive. As noted, Argentina can also look hopefully at the example of Peru, which has similarly transitioned from a statist, socialist model to one that embraces free trade, foreign investment and closer engagement with the United States.

Ultimately change will have to begin at home with the choice of the Argentinian people in the upcoming election. If the next president decides to break with the past and steer the country out of the dead end of Kirchnerism and Peronist socialism, and towards free markets and more transparent governance, then the United States should be waiting with an outstretched hand.

A VISION FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Consider a region with growing economic and geopolitical importance, home to several of our highest-value trading partners, with significant immigration into and remittances in and out of the U.S., and presenting security challenges vital to our interests. One would think that such a region would be at the top of the list of our foreign policy priorities.

In reality, this region exists in the Western Hemisphere, but our attention to Latin America has been sporadic and episodic since the 1980's and early-1990's. As we moved away from our Cold War-era attention to the region, we had some promising initial steps with efforts at greater regional integration. However, we failed to follow these initial efforts with needed follow-on measures and consistent policy, due to divisive and distracting issues of domestic politics at home and a focus on the Middle East and South Asia, propelled by the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a result, we have been forced to react to events, many of which are dictated by nations openly hostile to the United States.

Whatever the outcome of November 6th might be, the victor has the opportunity, and the responsibility, to build a vision for the reshaping and revitalizing our relationship with the rest of the Western Hemisphere. For the increasingly busy post-campaign transition staffs of President Obama and Governor Romney, it is not too soon to begin laying the groundwork for such a vision.

In a recent exercise we conducted regarding our Western Hemisphere policies and a way forward, we found key items for an Administration's agenda towards the region. An agenda based around an understanding of the need for greater economic ties, a joint approach to security challenges, and shared political and cultural values can be a vision that shows the region that America is not only a power in the region but also a partner.

Through NAFTA and various preceding organizations like the IADB, the United States was once a key driver in the economic integration of the region. There were subsequent free trade agreements with Chile, Colombia, Panama, Peru, and CAFTA-DR with the countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic. While these trade pacts have opened up economic opportunities for the nations involved, we have failed to capitalize on follow-up opportunities that would fur-

ther the economic vitality and integration of the region.

Integration of the economies of the United States and Canada with those of the Caribbean and Latin America can not only provide economic benefits but also address the economic inequality that fuels governments which are hostile to the United States, and deprives these nations of the bounty that their natural and human resources could provide. For all the socialist vitriol of leaders like Hugo Chavez, his promises to improve the lot of impoverished masses have kept him in power. His opponent in the recent election also made clear that he would continue many of these social programs.

Furthermore, these commercial partnerships present a clear alternative to the mercantilist policies of China, provide opportunities for American manufacturers and consumers, and create a bloc of Western Hemisphere nations united in negotiations regarding a Pacific trade agenda.

These commercial ties can also leverage educational exchange in strengthening regional ties. As individuals from the Western Hemisphere come to study at our greatest colleges and universities, we can not only attract the best and brightest talent here, but also strengthen and enrich shared values throughout the region. To accomplish this, we must decouple adverse perceptions about mass immigration from a policy which allows visas for top students and entrepreneurs.

In an era where crime and terrorism have undergone the same globalization as economies and cultures, the security challenges of the Western Hemisphere are not the concern of one nation. Building on the success of Plan Colombia, we can continue the fight against narcoterror across the region, based around a model of mutually reinforcing kinetic operations and the building and strengthening of institutions resistant to the pressures of crime and corruption.

Also, as narcotics move from Latin America through Africa into Europe, these issues are no longer solely an American concern. Our traditional security partners in Europe also have a role in the Western Hemisphere through shared interests and their historical and cultural ties to the region.

While it is often an issue that divides the U.S. from other nations in the region, it must also be understood that the oppression, intellectual bankruptcy, and the aging regime of Cuba present a security risk to all of the Americas.

Beyond these economic and security concerns, the vacuum created by the lack of consistent U.S. attention requires a shift in our political approach to the hemisphere. The OAS, long the main multilateral institution for the hemisphere, is now on life support. While it would be destructive to the organization for the U.S. to withdraw its support for the OAS, the next President must also build a close multilateral relationship with the leaders from the region. While it is true that many question the utility of the regional summits, the President can set forth a U.S. vision for the Western Hemisphere through a summit with the Presidents of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Such a vision can revitalize our policies and partnerships with the Western Hemisphere. No longer can we take this region for granted as merely our backyard, nor can we miss the opportunities presented by a vibrant, integrated Western Hemisphere.

HONORING I LOVE LIFE

HON. KRISTI L. NOEM

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a radio program that has shared stories of hope, faith and encouragement for more than 35 years. In a world so often filled with heartbreaking narratives, the I Love Life program and its host, Jerry Dahmen, has showcased the stories of more than 1,500 people who have overcome challenges, achieved the unexpected, and inspired those around them.

I Love Life is broadcast out of KXRB in South Dakota, but can be heard across the country. Its inspirational programming has earned dozens of broadcasting and community awards while tackling some of the time's toughest issues, including teenage suicide, human trafficking, love and loss.

The program may make you laugh or cry, but either way, it's likely to teach you that if you can't change your circumstances, maybe you can change your attitude in a way that focuses on gratitude. Because of this program, millions of listeners across the world have been inspired to join in the chorus saying that I too love life.

A TRIBUTE TO JILL NISWANDER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jill Niswander for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

With a passion for volunteering, Jill left the world of corporate finance and co-founded Dress for Success Des Moines in 2011. Jill later became an advocate for refugees when her career took her into business development at an Iowa community health organization. Now she is the Director of Communications and Fund Development at EMBARC, an advocacy and resource center for Burmese refugees. Additionally, Jill works to empower women by serving on the Board of Directors for the Beacon of Life. Jill is also a proud wife and wonderful mother to four beautiful children.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jill in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great